

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a request for content having associated therewith an information object identified by a uniform resource locator (URL) including a redirector address;

mapping, using a lookup table, the URL of the information object to a corresponding unicast address associated with an originating source for the information object; [[and]]

using the unicast address as an anycast address so as to obtain the information object from a nearest information object repository identified by a redirector identified by the redirector address[[:]], wherein the nearest information object repository is selected according to specified performance metrics that comprise average delay from the nearest information object repository to a source of the request, average processing delay at the nearest information object repository, reliability of a path from the nearest information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the nearest information object repository;

monitoring an established connection between a destination of the request and the nearest information object repository servicing the request; and

adjusting the established connection if network conditions of the established connection degrade by replacing the nearest information object repository with a different information object repository.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising directing the request to the nearest information object repository without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the nearest information object repository.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising instructing the nearest information object repository to obtain a copy of the information object.

18-19. (canceled)

20. (new). The method of claim 15, wherein monitoring the established connection occurs constantly.

21. (new). The method of claim 15, wherein monitoring the established connection occurs periodically.

22. (new). The method of claim 15, wherein adjusting the established connection occurs constantly.

23. (new). The method of claim 15, wherein adjusting the established connection occurs periodically.